



**LOOMIS TOWN CENTER
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM- PHASE I**
TOWN OF LOOMIS

Community Meeting #1 Summary

August 22, 2009

Mayor Walt Scherer welcomed community members and turned the floor over to the consultant team: Daniel Iacofano, Mukul Malhotra, Amy Mitchell, and Jeff Liljegen (MIG); Ed Henderson and Terry Lowell (TLA), Ken Anderson (KDA). Mr. Iacofano reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives, which were to present a summary of the project site existing conditions, opportunities and constraints, and to receive feedback from community members on desired plan elements, both through open discussion and small group visioning activities.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND OVERARCHING GOALS PRESENTATION

MIG presented a summary of the project site existing conditions that included the following elements.

- Regional Location
- History
- Multiple Access Modes
- Mix of Uses
- Community Amenities
- Unique Character
- Environmental Assets
- Development Synergy

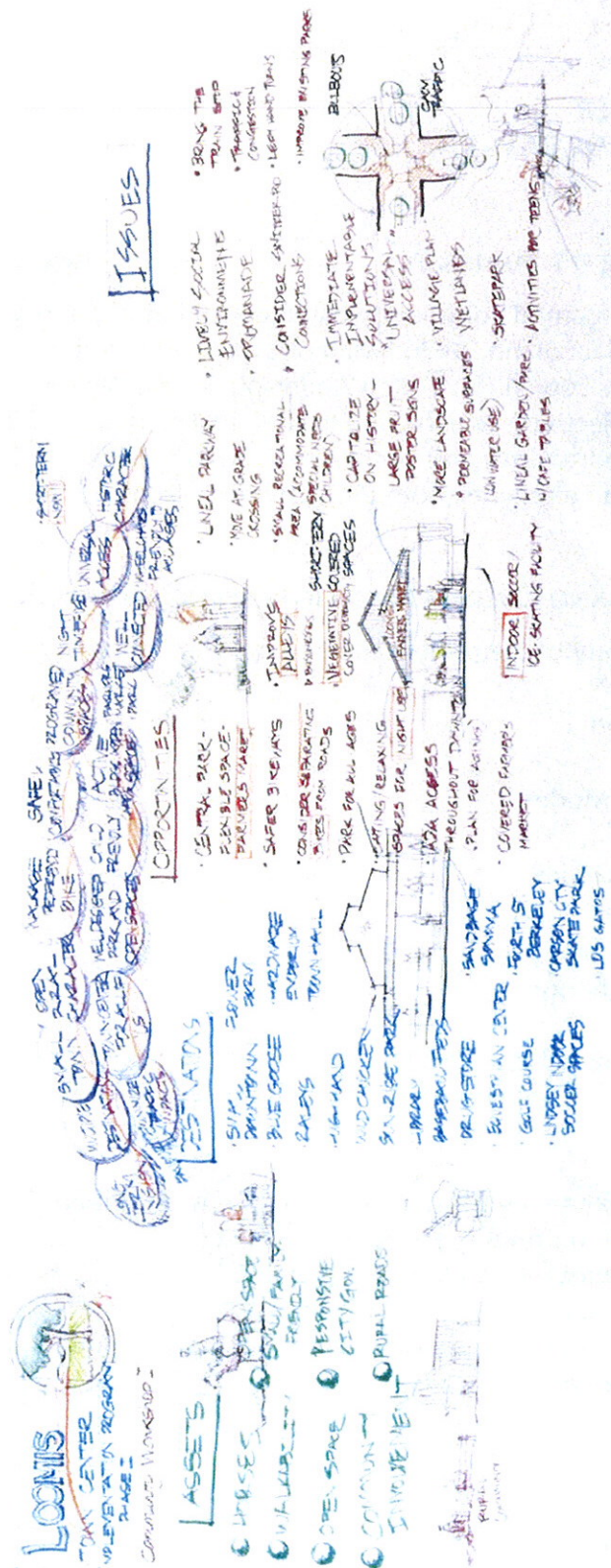
MIG then presented a summary of the Emerging Vision for the project, based on the Steering Committee's input at previous meetings. This vision comprises the following overarching Goals:

1. Enhance Town Center as a key local and regional destination
2. Create enriching community friendly open spaces
3. Strengthen the unique small town/rural character
4. Maximize the natural and ecological elements
5. Improve access & overall pedestrian & bicycle environment
6. Address Town Center area parking



PROPOSED PLAN ELEMENTS

MIG presented some suggested plan elements for the project site, and facilitated a discussion of the community members' Opportunities and Issues. The following graphic recording summarizes the input received from the group.





VISIONING ACTIVITY/BREAKOUT GROUP WORK

Community members broke up into 5 groups, based on numbers assigned via name tags. Each group was facilitated by a member of the consultant team, who led the group through 3 exercises, with the ultimate goal of confirming the desired park plan elements; studying their potential locations, adjacencies, sizes, and associated parking requirements; and then deciding the group's top 5 priorities for implementing their chosen plan elements.

Potential Plan Element Group Tally

Following are graphics representing the posters the individual breakout groups used to "vote" on potential plan elements. The graphics show the groups overall results, with the numbers representing the total number of groups who "agreed," "disagreed," or said "maybe" to each proposed plan element. Suggestions for additional plan elements not shown on the posters are listed at the bottom. Overall there was strong support for pedestrian walkways, bikeways, and pedestrian/bike trails; a promenade/linear garden, flexible use space, and pocket plazas. There was moderate support for a waterspray play area, specialty retail, a natural play area, and a swale/buffer. There was little support for a full multi-use trail including equestrians and for large, archway-type gateway signs.

POTENTIAL PLAN ELEMENTS

Pedestrian Walkways Agree Maybe Disagree



5

Bikeways



5

Multi-use Trails



1

2

2

Pedestrian & Bike Trails



4

Gateways



2

3

Parking

3

Buildings



Artist Studio

2

2

1

Specialty Retail

3

2



Museum

2

3

Other

- Youth
- Food
- Entertainment
- Activities (events)
- Blue Goose Second Floor (Elevator, Depot)
- Relocate Webb St.
- Bike Racks
- Hardware Store

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POTENTIAL PLAN ELEMENTS

		Agree	Maybe	Disagree
Waterspray				
		3	2	
Promenade/Linear Garden				
		4	1	
Dog Park				
		2	2	1
Flexible Use/Open Space				
		4	1	
Swale/Buffer				
		3	2	
Natural Play Area				
		3	2	
Pocket Plazas				
		4	1	

Other

- Community Garden
- Farmers Market
- Covered Area
- Multi Purpose Sports Facilities (Skate Park)

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BREAKOUT GROUP SITE PLANNING AND PRIORITIZING ACTIVITY RESULTS

Each group appointed a spokesperson to present the group's results to the whole committee. Following are the key ideas from each group's proposed site plan. Note that for the three groups who listed their priority elements, the pedestrian/bike trail and linear park/garden are priority number 1 or 2 in each case.

Group 1

For Group 1, the overarching concept is a series of new open spaces connected with a pedestrian and bike trail. These spaces include a water spray play area, natural play area, flexible use space and a promenade/linear garden, providing linked activities from the Blue Goose to the lumber yard, with new surface parking complementing the new uses. Group 1 adds small multi-purpose buildings behind Jim Boy's Tacos and High Hand Nursery to further activate the area, and they also suggest adding a multi-purpose sports area with a skate park and basketball facilities at the north-east corner of Taylor Road and Sierra College Boulevard. Lastly, improved ADA accessible paths and crosswalks are included to improve the overall pedestrian character and connections along Taylor Road.

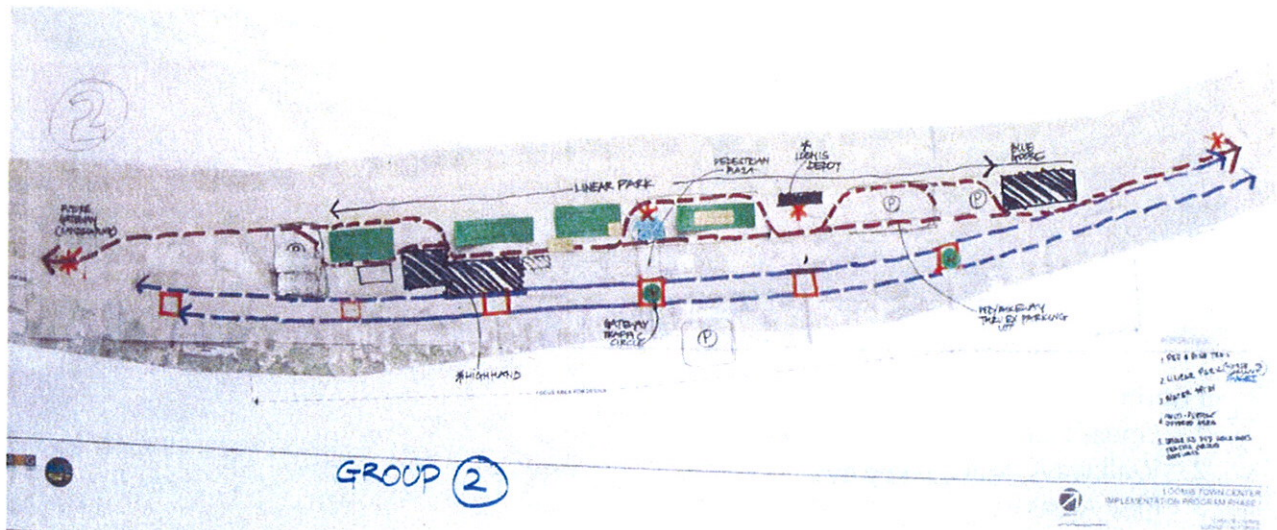


Priorities

1. None Listed

Group 2

Between the railroad depot and the lumber yard, Group 2 would like to see a linear multi-use space including both open space and built elements. They would make a waterplay plaza at the end of Walnut Street as a key destination, and then make connections to a linear garden, a flexible open space, and a multi-purpose structure that could support a farmers market, festivals or sports facilities. A pedestrian/bike trail links these destinations to each other as well as to the existing adjoining downtown destinations. Group 2 envisions ADA accessible pedestrian pathways on both sides of Taylor Road, and also would like to see traffic circles at Walnut Street and Webb to help calm traffic. These circles would also serve as gateways and compliment new gateways at King Street and Sierra College Boulevard. Lastly, to further help create a unique sense of place, Group 2 suggests including pedestrian plazas west of Taylor Road along Walnut Street and Horseshoe Bar Road.



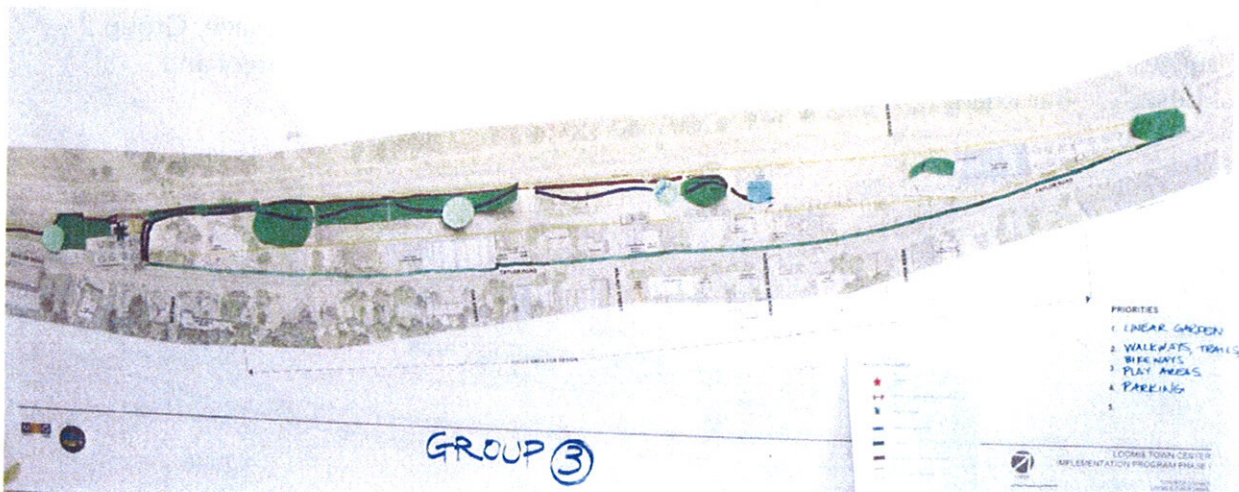
Priorities

1. Pedestrian & Bike Trail
2. Linear Park (Horseshoe to Walnut) Phase I
3. Water Spray
4. Multi-purpose Covered Area
5. Taylor Rd. Pedestrian Walkways, Traffic Circles, and Gateways



Group 3

For Group 3, a linear garden between the railroad depot and a point past the lumber yard ties the plan together, with destination elements placed at strategic points along the way—waterplay plaza at the depot with nearby play area, a dog park at the opposite end with a pocket plaza and café or coffee cart, and picnic areas at several stopping points. Group 3 allows for bikers along the street and also provides a mountain bike trail and a separate winding pedestrian trail along the railroad tracks. Lastly Group 3 suggests enhancing the existing Farmer's Market area, and beautifying the drainage area next to the Blue Goose at King Rd.

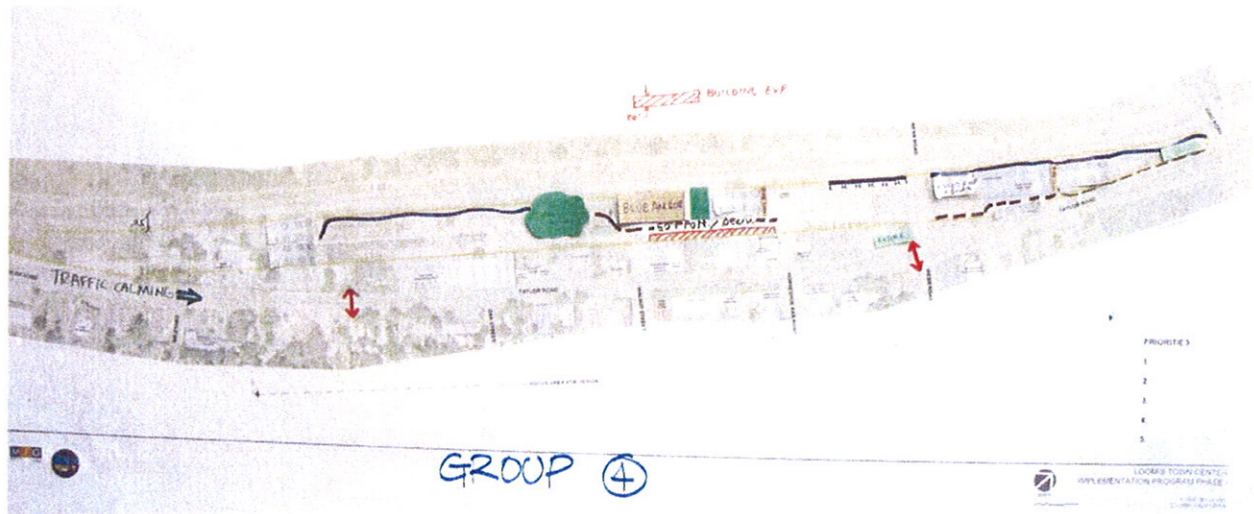


Priorities

1. Linear Garden
2. Walkways, trails, bikeways
3. Play Areas
4. Parking

Group 4

Group 4 calls for traffic calming and better crosswalks along Taylor Rd. On the town-owned properties, they'd like to incorporate a rebirth of the Blue Anchor, a natural play area, and a pedestrian trail connection leading from King Rd. extending to a new parking area behind the High Hand restaurant. They want to enhance the views along the backs of buildings, and also provide pedestrian walks/trails around the Blue Goose.



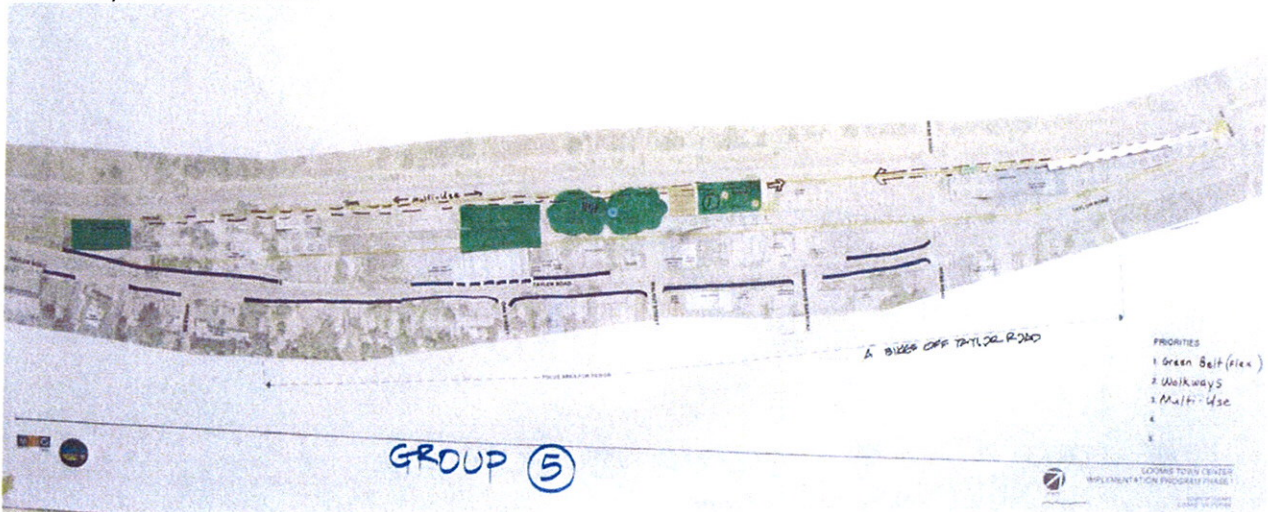
Priorities

1. None Listed



Group 5

For group 5, flexibility was most important—providing spaces that provide for a range of users and functions. Their plan moves bikes off of Taylor Rd., improves sidewalks, provides a multi-use trail along the railroad tracks, and includes a promenade or some feature incorporated into part of the multi-use trail. Group 5 would like to consider including a community garden or a youth center. Lastly, they want to ensure renovation of walkways to meet ADA.



Priorities

1. Green Belt (flexible)
2. Walkways
3. Multiuse



COMMUNITY PARTICIPANT COMMENT

In addition to the comments captured on the graphic recording, community members offered comment via the provided "Comment Cards." These comments are summarized below:

Streetscape and Parking

1. Eliminate traffic lights
2. Increase parking availability (consider adding signs, so people know how to find it; require business owners to provide parking)
3. Include horse trailer parking
4. Provide a landscaped median for both Taylor and Horseshoe Bar Rd.
5. Emphasize people, not cars
6. Implement traffic calming, especially on Horseshoe Bar between Evans & Brace.

Circulation, Parks and Open Space

7. Include lots of shade
8. Encourage sustainability—energy efficiency, low water use, edible plants, urban forest diversity; consider plan elements that demonstrate renewable energy
9. Provide a safe sidewalk/bike path from Legacy Lane to Del Oro High School and to Town Center; from Sierra College to Legacy Lane
10. Take the bike paths off the streets and put them along the railroad tracks
11. Add green space around the Railroad Depot
12. Include drinking fountains
13. Accommodate equestrians that come to Christensen's for saddle-fitting and clinics
14. Highlight fruit box signs
15. Make a special Place for the Farmer's Market
16. Improve the look of the alleys and backs of buildings

NEXT STEPS

Based on the meeting results and all of public input to date, as well as the completed technical studies, the MIG team will develop Preliminary Concepts to present at the next Steering Committee meeting, which is planned for September 25, at 6:30 pm at the Loomis depot. Based on Steering Committee member comment at that meeting, the MIG team will develop Preferred Concepts for presentation at the Town Council meeting on October 13, 2009.

